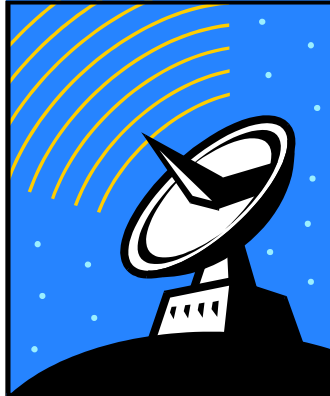


Enhanced Special Reporting Service (eSRS)

Satellite Assisted Flight Plan Tracking



Using technology to expedite Search and Rescue (SAR) in Alaska

Concept - Aircraft equipped with certain models of satellite/GPS tracking devices may include them as an augmentation of their normal VFR Flight Plan.

Satellite communication devices are now available that provide tracking or emergency alert features for pilots. The FAA Alaska Flight Service has developed a program that allows pilots to augment and enhance the benefits of the standard VFR Flight Plan. We are starting from the basic premise of “Special Reporting Service”, an established program to track pilots operating in mountains or over water by maintaining frequent contact on the radio. That idea is to launch SAR at the earliest possible moment when it is believed that an aircraft is in distress. Rapid responses save lives! This program allows Flight Service to receive an alert from an aircraft in distress via lightweight electronics carried in the aircraft and transmitted via satellite. Flight Service does not actively track the flights, but once an alert is generated, the position of the aircraft is transmitted to Flight Service. This document is a description of the program, the devices used and information for pilots interested in using this service.

Benefits Include:

- Alert notifications are transmitted to FSS directly, reducing the response time in the event of an emergency.
- Alert messages typically include the location of the aircraft in distress, allowing rescue to go directly to the aircraft location, instead of searching along an entire route when a flight becomes overdue.
- The service offers increased protection when a pilot files a round-robin or extended duration flight plan for travel to remote areas without access to VHF radio communication outlets.

Who May Participate? Pilots and aircraft owners who have SPOT™ or Spidertracks™ devices may participate in this program on VFR flights within the state of Alaska. The alerting features of these devices, **combined with a flight plan**, may provide benefits when operating in Alaska.

How Does it Work? Pilots looking for more information or wishing to participate in eSRS should contact one of the FSS personnel listed on the front of this brochure. A **Master Flight Plan** will need to be established, or updated, with Flight Service prior to participation. Your information must include the make and model of the SPOT or Spidertracks device that you will use, and check off “**eSRS Participant**” on the Master Flight Plan form.

Do I Need to File a Flight Plan? Pilots should always file a VFR flight plan. If an Alert or distress message is transmitted, it will be received directly by Flight Service. Once matched to your flight plan, the response by rescue authorities will be expedited by the location information included in the message.

It is important to understand that this service is in addition to, and supplements, a regular flight plan.

Create or Update your Master Flight Plan!

Master Flight Plans may be submitted or updated on-line at the following link:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/systemops/fs/alaska/alaska/esrs-ak/media/MFP_Form_esrs.pdf

When our database has been updated, you will receive notification that your Master Flight Plan is ready to use. From then on, you may inform the briefer that you have a Master Flight Plan and only supply the elements needed for your current flight. The process of filing a flight plan has never been simpler!



What You Need To Get Started

SPOT: Your SPOT device allows you to create different profiles for your various activities. When you create a profile for your aircraft operations, make sure you include your FAA N-Number and your name, and the text number and email address for Alaskan Flight Services. That profile must be activated before you go flying. Having an active flight plan with Flight Service is also essential to the process. Help messages received at Alaskan Flight Services which cannot be positively tied to a specific aircraft will be forwarded to the Rescue Coordination Center.

Spidertracks: Spidertracks tracks users should enter the contact information for Flight Service into their “Tier Two Contacts” profile only. This is intended to reduce the number of false alarms received by the FSS.

NOTE: the **Spiderwatch** function must be enabled if you wish to have FSS alerted automatically.

Once you have entered the Flight Service contact information, the rest is up to us!

If you have additional questions about the contact information, contact a Flight Service Station. Please note that Flight Service is not able to provide technical support for the devices used. Contact the equipment’s manufacturer for details regarding their operation.

What Happens Next?

SPOT “Help” Message: All messages to Alaskan Flight Services **must** include your N-Number and name. This type of message will generate a communications search for your aircraft. If communications cannot be established, a full SAR response may occur.

SPOT “911” Message: This message is transmitted directly to the International Emergency Response Center (IERC), who forward the report to the Alaska State Troopers, independent of Flight Service. To obtain additional assistance from Flight Service, your profile must specifically instruct the IERC to call an Alaskan Flight Service Station.

Spidertracks “SOS” Messages: These messages are automatically formatted by the manufacturer, and include the most recent position, and a link to your track. SOS messages received by Flight Service that are tied to a specific N-Number and location will generate a full SAR response.

Restrictions:

This program is intended for VFR flights within Alaska. Search and Rescue procedures for trans-border flights to Canada or Russia are not currently adapted for eSRS.

Messages not associated with an aircraft will be forwarded to the Rescue Coordination Center for action.

Contact Information:

Fairbanks FSS:

Support Staff
(907) 474-0388

Juneau FSS:

Support Staff:
(907) 586-7382

Kenai FSS:

Support Staff:
(907) 283-3735